



KASANE

&

d a r u m a
m a t s u u r a

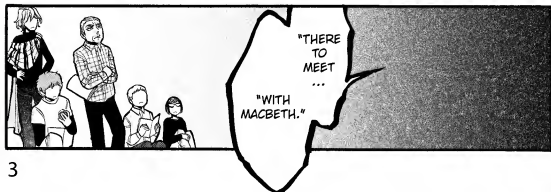


KASANE



d a r u m a
m a t s u u r a

Chapter Sixty-Three:	Prophecy	3
Chapter Sixty-Four:	Ghosts	23
Chapter Sixty-Five:	Your Patient	43
Chapter Sixty-Six:	The Color of Blood	63
Chapter Sixty-Seven:	Transience	85
Chapter Sixty-Eight:	Sleep	105
Chapter Sixty-Nine:	Torch	125
Chapter Seventy:	Sword	147
Chapter Seventy-One:	Poison Fangs	167



Chapter Sixty-Three: Prophecy



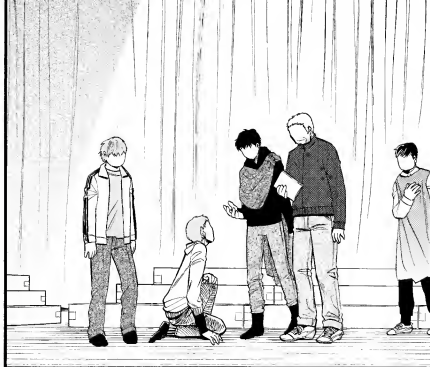
"FAIR IS
FOUL,

AND
FOUL
IS FAIR
..."



NO MATTER
HOW
GOOD OR
BAD THIS
SITUATION
MAY BE...

"HOVER
THROUGH
THE FOG
AND FILTHY
AIR."



THE
INTENSITY
AND
TENSION OF
MACBETH
IS MAKING
ME GROW
MORE AND
MORE,
EACH DAY.

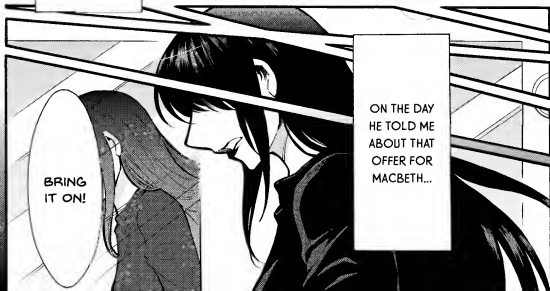


THE MORE
PROGRESS
I MAKE, THE
MORE I
FEEL UNEASE
CREEPING UP
BEHIND ME...

BUT
IN
TURN,



IT MUST BE
BECAUSE OF
WHAT HABUTA
SAID TO ME.



BRING
IT ON!

ON THE DAY
HE TOLD ME
ABOUT THAT
OFFER FOR
MACBETH...

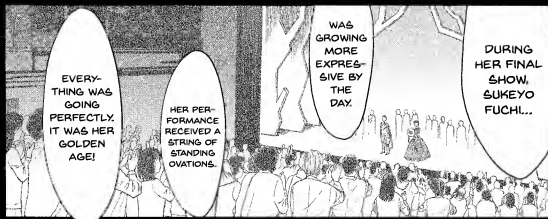


YOU'RE
SELF-
AS-
SURED.

AND
I'LL
ACKNOWL-
EDGE
THAT
YOU'RE
A GOOD
ENOUGH
ACTRESS

TO
MERIT
THAT
KIND OF
CONFIDENCE.

BUT
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHY.



EVERY-
THING WAS
GOING
PERFECTLY.
IT WAS HER
GOLDEN
AGE!

HER PER-
FORMANCE
RECEIVED A
STRING OF
STANDING
OVATIONS.

WAS
GROWING
MORE
EXPRES-
SIVE BY
THE
DAY.

DURING
HER FINAL
SHOW,
SUKEYO
FUCHI...



YOU NEVER
SAW HER, SO I
SUPPOSE YOU
WOULDN'T KNOW



HER FIRM
LOVE
FOR HER
HUSBAND,

AND THE
DEMONIC
CRUELTY AND
STRENGTH
THAT AROSE
FROM THAT...

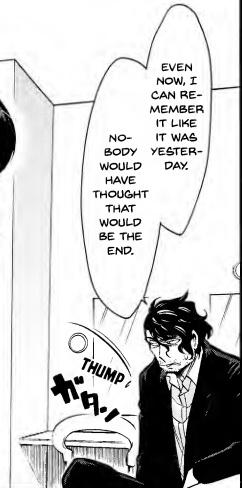
HOW
BRILLIANTLY
AND
VIVIDLY SHE
PORTRAYED
LADY
MACBETH:

AS SHE
WEAKENS IN
THE LATER
ACTS, AND
GOES MAD.

AND HER
CONTRA-
DICTIONARY
FRAGILITY,
LIKE THAT
OF A
FLOWER,
ITS PETALS
FALLING
FRUITLESSLY
...



NORMALLY,
WHEN I ASK
HIM ABOUT
MY MOTHER,
HE HARDLY
SAYS A WORD.



EVEN
NOW, I
CAN RE-
MEMBER
IT LIKE
IT WAS
YESTER-
DAY.

NO-
BODY
WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT
THAT
WOULD
BE THE
END.

THUMP
カッ!



...
BUT WHY?
WHAT
HAPPENED
TO HER?



I THINK IT
HAPPENED
BECAUSE
SHE BECAME
TOO GOOD
AT ACTING.

BUT...



I
DON'T
KNOW.



HER FANTASTIC
PERFORMANCE
MADE LIES...

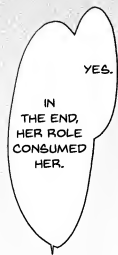


BECOME
REAL.



SHE WOULD
BE WASHING
HER HANDS
OVER AND
OVER, JUST
LIKE THE
MAD LADY
MACBETH.

I HEARD
SHE BEGAN
ACTING
STRANGELY
DURING
REHEARSALS
...



YES.

IN
THE END,
HER ROLE
CONSUMED
HER.



SHE
WAS
...
YELLING
AT THIN
AIR, JUST
LIKE
MACBETH
SEEING
GHOSTS.

I SAW
IT,
TOO...





THAT'S WHY,
EVEN AFTER
THE PLAY...



IS THAT
REALLY
THE
REASON?



ANYWAY, THE
MENTALITY
OF THE ROLE
SWALLOWED
HER, AND
SHE NEVER
WANTED TO
ACT AGAIN.

OH,
WELL,

NEVERTHE-
LESS,
TO
ABANDON
THE
STAGE...

I CAN
UNDERSTAND
THE PART
ABOUT
BEING
"SWALLOWED
UP BY
THE ROLE."
BUT IF
THAT
WAS THE
ONLY
STRANGE
THING
GOING
ON,

THIS IS
THE ONLY
PLACE I
CAN BE
ALIVE.

"SO FOUL
AND FAIR
A DAY...

I HAVE
NOT
SEEN."

BE-
CAUSE
...

IF
I WERE
HER,
I'D BE
UNABLE
TO GIVE
UP THAT
WORLD
...

NO
MATTER
WHAT.





"WHO ALL-
HAILED ME
'THANE OF
CAWDOR!"



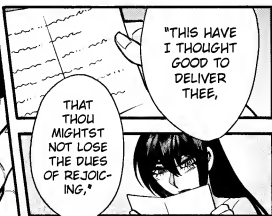
CAME
MISSIVES
FROM THE
KING,"

"WHILES
I STOOD
RAPT
IN THE
WONDER
OF IT,



"HIE
THEE
HITHER,

THAT I
MAY POUR
MY SPIRITS
IN THINE
EAR..."



"THIS HAVE
I THOUGHT
GOOD TO
DELIVER
THEE,

THAT
THOU
MIGHTST
NOT LOSE
THE DUES
OF REJOIC-
ING,"





ALL THAT
IMPEDES
THEE
FROM THE
GOLDEN
ROUND."

"AND
CHAS-
TISE
WITH
THE
VALOUR
OF MY
TONGUE
...



C
L
A
P



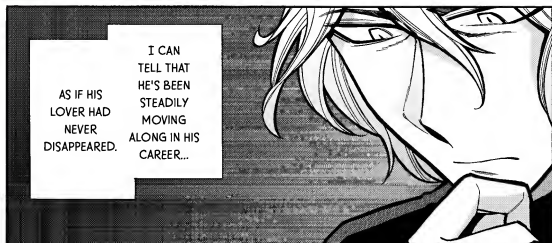
I
UNDER-
STAND.

ALL
RIGHT,
THEN
BREAK
FOR
NOW!

AND
STOP
WALKING
AROUND.
LET'S
TRY
SITTING
DOWN
IN THE
CHAIR.

THE
PACING
HAS
FALLEN
APART.

MAKE
THE
SILENCE
HERE
TWELVE
SECONDS,
AND
SPEED
THIS
PART UP
INSTEAD.





I WANT TO
READ OUT
THIS SCENE
WITH YOU
ONE MORE
TIME.

SURE.

YOUR
DETERMINA-
TION
TO THROW
YOURSELF
INTO
ACTING...



AND THIS
MIRACLE,
BEING
ABLE TO
STAND
ON STAGE
WITH YOU
LIKE THIS
AGAIN...

"WHEN
DUNCAN
IS
ASLEEP
..."

I DID FEEL SAD
ABOUT THAT,



BUT NOW...



"WHAT
CAN-
NOT
YOU
AND I
PER-
FORM
..."

WHEN IN
SWINISH
SLEEP, THEIR
DRENCHED
NATURES
LIE AS IN A
DEATH..."

"HIS TWO
CHAMBER-
LAINS WILL
I WITH
WINE AND
WASSAIL
SO
CONVINCE
..."

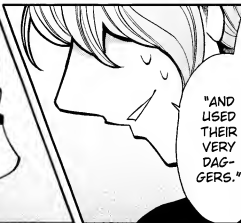
MAKES
ME
HAPPY.



"UPON THE
LINGUARDED
DUNCAN?"



"AS
WE
...
SHALL
MAKE
OUR
GRIEFS
AND
CLAMOUR
ROAR
UPON HIS
DEATH."



"WE WILL
HAVE
MARK'D
WITH BLOOD
THOSE
SLEEPY
TWO OF
HIS OWN
CHAMBER
...
"AND
USED
THEIR
VERY
DAG-
GERS."



"FALSE
FACE MUST
HIDE WHAT
THE FALSE
HEART
DOTH
KNOW."



AWAY,

AND
MOCK
THE TIME
WITH
FAIREST
SHOW
..."

"I AM
SET-
TLED."



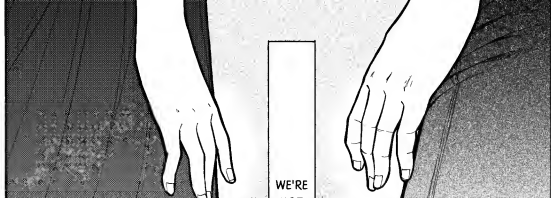
MACBETH,
LADY
MACBETH!

CLAP



YOUR
ACTING IS
INTEREST-
ING, THE
PACING IS
GOOD, AND
YOU'RE NOT
LAGGING.

IT
SEEMS
FINE.



WE'RE
NOT
LOVERS
ANY-
MORE.
BUT...



YES,
IT
REALLY
WAS.



IT WAS
THE RIGHT
CHOICE TO
DOUBLE-
CHECK OUR
TIMING
EARLIER.



BYE.

GOOD-
BYE!

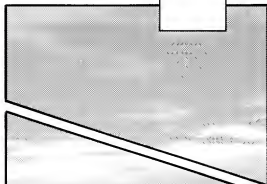
FUJIHARA
IS THE
TYPE TO
MEASURE
PACING
AND TIMING
DOWN
TO THE
SECOND.
YOU
HAVE
TO
MATCH
HIS
DIREC-
TIONS
PRE-
CISELY.



RIGHT
NOW,
EVERY
DAY...



I ANX-
IOUSLY
AWAIT
THE
NEXT TO
COME.



"TO-
MOR-
ROW,
AND
TO-
MOR-
ROW,
AND
TO-
MOR-
ROW
..."



FROM
DAY TO
DAY..."

"CREEPS IN
THIS PETTY
PACE..."



ON STAGE,
I FEEL A
BOND WITH
YOU EVEN
STRONGER
THAN THAT
OF LOVERS.



Chapter Sixty-Three:
the end







I
JUST
...

GOT THE
FEELING
WE WERE
BEING
WATCHED.

HUH
?!

WHAT'S
WRONG
?

は
JERK



NO...
LOOKS LIKE
IT WAS MY
IMAGINATION.





IT'S LIKE
SHE
CHANGES
ON THE
INSIDE,
TOO.



YOU
CAN
COME
OUT
NOW.

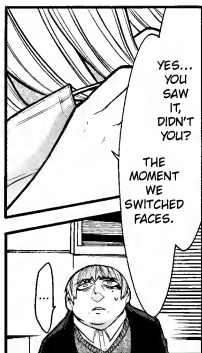


I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
HER SMILE
WITH
HER OWN
FACE.

RUSTLE



ARE
YOU...



YES...
YOU
SAW
IT,
DIDN'T
YOU?

THE
MOMENT
WE
SWITCHED
FACES.

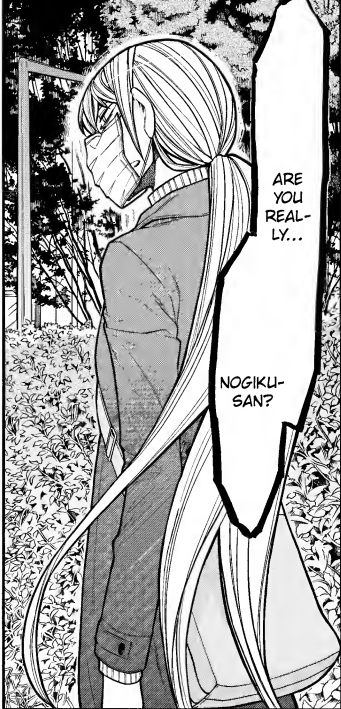
...



ISN'T
ENOUGH
TO DIGEST
IT RIGHT
AWAY!

JUST
SEEING
IT...

EVEN
YOUR
VOICE
...



ARE
YOU
REAL-
LY...

NOGIKU-
SAN?



ONLY OUR
FACES AND
VOICES GET
SWAPPED.

JUST
LIKE I
TOLD YOU
BEFORE,



THIS
POWER
IS THE
SOURCE
OF ALL
THOSE
EVILS.



SHOULD
I SHOW
YOU MY
BURN
SCAR?

IF YOU
SEE MY
BODY,
YOU'LL
KNOW
RIGHT
AWAY
IT'S ME,
RIGHT?



BY
IMPRISON-
ING MY
MOTHER AND
CONTINUALLY
STEALING
HER FACE,
HER LIFE,
EVERY-
THING
FROM
HER.

KASANE'S
MOTHER,
"SUKEYO
FUCHI"
USED THIS
POWER TO
RULE THE
STAGE...



JUST
LIKE
THAT.
THE
TWO
OF YOU
SHOULD
BE
CLOSE,

AND
MOVE
AS ONE
MASS
...

SINCE
MACBETH
AND HIS
WIFE ARE
LIKE ONE
SINGLE LIVING
CREATURE.

"I HEARD
THE OWL
SCREAM
AND THE
CRICKETS
CRY."

"I
HAVE
DONE
THE
DEED.

DIDST
THOU
NOT
HEAR
A
NOISE
?"





"THE
SLEEPING
AND THE
DEAD ARE
BUT AS
PICTURES:



LIPON
KILL-
ING
THE
KING,

MAC-
BETH
FEELS
FEAR,

WHILE
LADY
MACBETH
DOES
NOT.

'TIS THE
EYE OF
CHILDHOOD
THAT FEARS
A PAINTED
DEVIL."



"I AM
AFRAID
TO THINK
WHAT
I HAVE
DONE."



SOME-
TIMES,
THEY'RE
EVEN
REFERRED
TO AS THE
"TWIN
COUPLE."

THEY'RE
CONTRAST-
ING, WHILE
AT THE
SAME
TIME, TWO
HEARTS
BEATING
AS ONE.

THEIR
CONVERSA-
TION IS
JUST LIKE
INTERNAL
CONFLICT
WITHIN A
SINGLE
INDIVIDUAL.



TWO
HEARTS
BEATING
AS ONE...
WE WERE
THAT, TOO,
ONCE.



AND
ISOLATED.

THIS MADE
BOTH OF US
SOCIALY
AWKWARD

TWO
KIN-
DRED
SPIRITS
...

BOTH
PUTTING
OUR FULL
SELVES
INTO OUR
PERFOR-
MANCES.



"MY
HANDS
ARE OF
YOUR
COLOUR
..."

THAT HE
MIGHT
PICK UP
ON THAT
SIMILARITY
NOW.
BUT EVEN
SO...



SO THE
CLOSER WE
GET, THE
MORE I
FEAR...



A black and white manga panel showing two men and a dog on a wooden floor. One man with light hair is kneeling and looking at an open book. The other man, older with a balding head, is leaning over him, pointing at the book. A dark-colored dog is sitting between them, looking towards the book.

SO
MACBETH IS
TORTURED
BY EVEN
MORE
FEAR.

A black and white manga panel featuring a close-up of a man's face. He has light-colored hair and a serious, intense expression, looking slightly to the side.

BUT
THE
EMOTION-
AL
FACETS
OF THE
STORY
ARE
SUBTLY
DETAILED
AND
REALIS-
TIC.

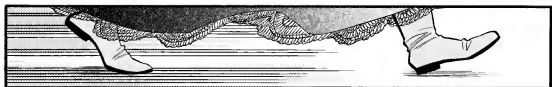
AT A
GLANCE
THIS
SHAKE-
SPEAREAN
PLAY IS
VERY
BOMBAS-
TIC...

A black and white manga panel with a large, detailed close-up of a woman's face on the left, showing her dark hair and intense eyes. To the right, there are three vertical panels. The top one shows a man's face in profile, looking down. The middle one shows a close-up of a plant. The bottom one shows a woman with dark hair and bangs, looking up with a surprised or concerned expression.

IF
SOMEONE
WHO'S
ACTUALLY
KILLED
IN REAL
LIFE WERE
TO SEE IT,
IT MIGHT
TERRIFY
THEM.









"O
PROPER
STUFF!"



THAT'S
RIGHT.

"THIS IS
THE VERY
PAINTING OF
YOUR FEAR!"



"WHY
SO, BEING
GONE, I
AM A MAN
AGAIN."

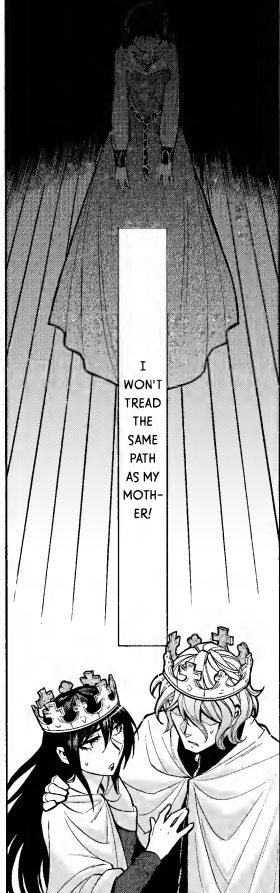
LADY
MAC-
BETH
IS
RIGHT.

SHAME
ITSELF!"

"OH,
THESE
FLAWS AND
STARTS,
IMPOSTORS
TO TRUE
FEAR..."

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.

LADY
MACBETH'S
LINES
GIVE ME
COURAGE.











THAT'S
RIGHT.

WHATEVER
YOU'RE
AFRAID OF,
YOU'RE NOT
FULLY INTO
YOUR ROLE
AS LADY
MACBETH
IN THIS
SCENE.

SEE
SOME-
THING
THAT
I...

DON'T
WANT
TO?



YOU'VE
BEEN
FANTASTIC
UP UNTIL
THIS POINT,
AND IT
MAKES THE
DIFFERENCE
QUITE AP-
PARENT.





HON-
ESTLY,
I DON'T
KNOW.

I MEAN,
LEADING
UP TO
THIS
SCENE,
SHE'S
BEEN
...



HUH
?

JUST
IMAG-
INE IT
YOUR-
SELF.

SO
THEN
...

JUST
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
THAT
TRIGGER
IS?

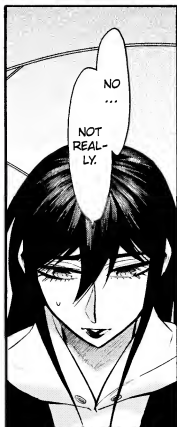


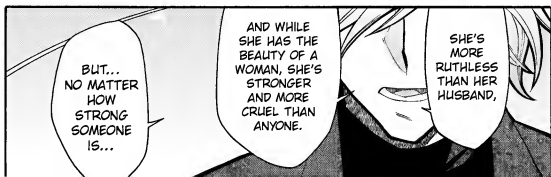
SO
STRONG
AND SO
FIERCE
...

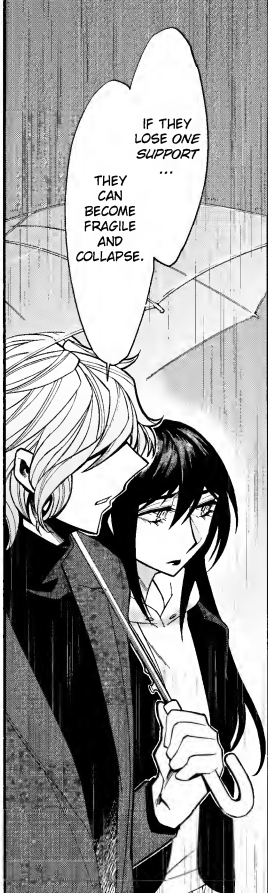
DOING
HER EVIL
DEEDS
WITH SUCH
CONVICTION.





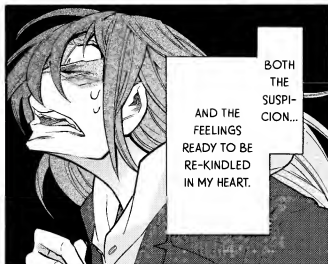








I HAVE
TO SHAKE
THIS
OFF.



AND THE
FEELINGS
READY TO BE
RE-KINDLED
IN MY HEART.

BOTH
THE
SUSPI-
CION...



BECAUSE
...

IT'S A BAD
IDEA TO GET
TOO CLOSE
TO HIM OFF-
STAGE.

TWO
HEARTS
BEATING
AS
ONE?

GASP

IF THEY
LOSE ONE
SUPPORT,
THEY CAN
BECOME
FRAGILE
AND
COLLAPSE.

WE WERE
LIKE TWO
HEARTS
BEATING
AS ONE...

JUST LIKE
MACBETH
AND HIS
LADY.

MAYBE

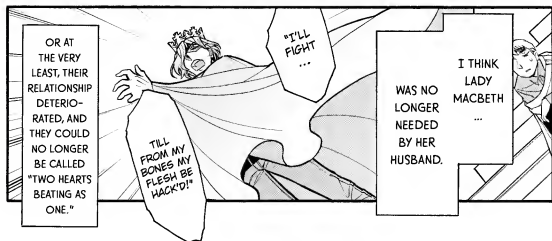
...

SEYTON
ON: What is your gracious pleasure?

CBETH: What news more?

ON: All is confirm'd, my lord,
which was reported.

...till from my bones
hack'd. Give me my





ENGLAND'S
FORCES
DRAW
CLOSER,
AS DOES
HIS FINAL
LINE.

WITH
EVERY
HOUR
THAT
PASSES,

MACBETH
HAS NOW
FORGOT-
TEN HIS
FEAR AND
GUILT,
AND HAS
BECOME A
SOLITARY
TYRANT.



HOW
DOES
YOUR
PATIENT,
DOCTOR?

...

HAPPENS
TO ASK THE
DOCTOR
ABOUT HIS
WIFE'S
CONDITION.

YES...
AND
THEN
BACKED
INTO A
CORNER,
MACBETH
...



IT WAS
WRITTEN
AS, "YOUR
PATIENT."

AND
WHAT'S
MORE,
IN THE
ORIGINAL
ENGLISH,

"PATIENT."

THE
"TWINs"
AD-
DRESSED
EACH
OTHER
WITH
DEEP
LOVE AS
THEY
BOTH
FELL
INTO
EVIL...

"DEAR
WIFE..."

MACBETH
HAD
NEVER
ONCE
AD-
DRESSED
HIS
WIFE...

IN
SUCH A
DISTANT
WAY,
BEFORE.

"BE
INNO-
CENT
OF THE
KNOWL-
EDGE,
DEAR-
EST
CHUCK."

BUT BY THIS
POINT, THE
CONNECTION
BETWEEN
THEIR HEARTS
HAD BEEN
SEVERED.

THE WORD
"PATIENT"
INDICATES
THE
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
THEM.

SO THEN,
WHEN SHE
LOST...

LADY
MACBETH
BECAME
RUTHLESS
FOR HER
HUSBAND,
DIRTYING
HER
HANDS
WITH
BLOOD.



GASP

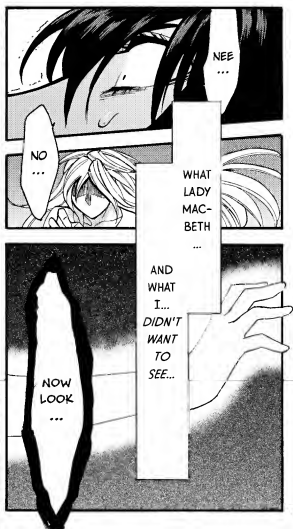
は、

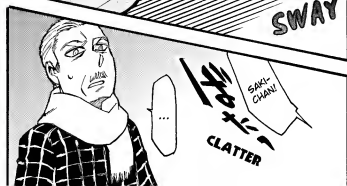
ALL
THAT
WAS
LEFT
TO
HER
WAS

...

LOST
HER
RAISON
D'ÊTRE,
TO LIVE
FOR HER
HUSBAND'S
SAKE,







EEEEEEK!



AND
NOBU-
HIKO
UNO IS
SNOOP-
ING IN
YOUR
BUSI-
NESS

BECAUSE
HE SEES
NEENA'S
SHADOW
IN YOU,
AND IT'S
MAKING
HIM
SUFFER.

THEY'RE
ALL
SUFFER-
ING
BECAUSE
OF YOU

"NEENA
TAN-
ZAWA,"
THE
WOMAN
WHO
BRIEFLY
EXISTED
AS AN
ACTRESS,
TOO.

YOU
KILLED
ME...
AND
ICHIKA
NISHI-
ZAWA.

AND
THEN
...

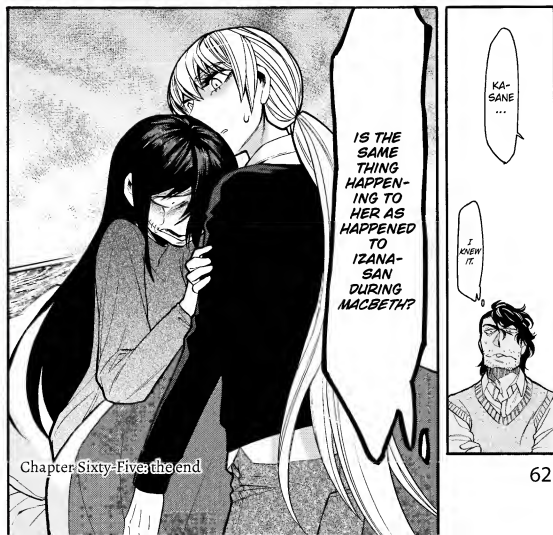
ARE YOU
PREPARED
TO LOOK
YOUR SINS
IN THE
EYE?

KA-
SANE
...

KA-
SANE
...

KA-
SANE
!









MOST
LIKELY,
THE SAME
THING THAT
HAPPENED
TO SUKEYO
FUCHI WHEN
SHE PLAYED
LADY
MACBETH
...
IS
HAPPEN-
ING
INSIDE
YOU.



...



THE
SAME
...

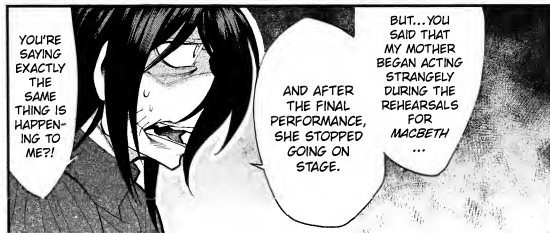
AS MY
MOTH-
ER...

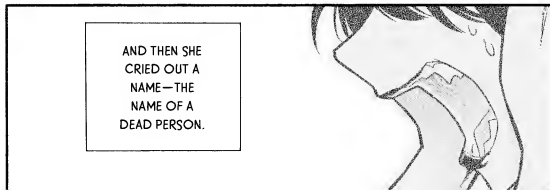


...

NOGIKU,
SORRY,
BUT
LEAVE
FOR A
MINUTE.

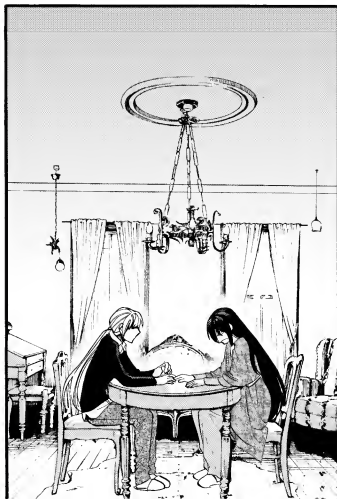
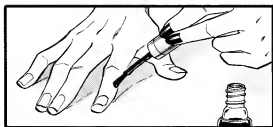
O-
OKAY.













DID YOU
NORMALLY WEAR
NAIL POLISH?

SHE'S
PRACTICED
AT THIS.



THIS IS
MY FIRST
TIME DOING
SOMEONE
ELSE.

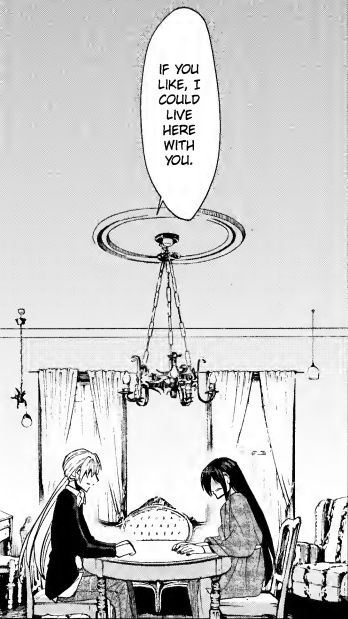
A
LONG
TIME
AGO.



THANK
YOU.
YOU
DID A
GREAT
JOB.



THERE.



IF YOU
LIKE, I
COULD
LIVE
HERE
WITH
YOU.



LISTEN,
I'VE
BEEN
THINK-
ING...



THEN YOU'LL
BE SURE WE
CAN DO THE
EXCHANGE
IN THE
MORNINGS.



HUH?



SURE.



BE-
SIDES
...



Y-YOU'RE
OKAY
WITH
THAT?

AND
YOU MIGHT
HAVE
REVEALED
YOUR
IDENTITY IN
FRONT OF
PEOPLE.

THE
TRANS-
FORMATION
WOULD
HAVE
SOON
WORN
OFF...

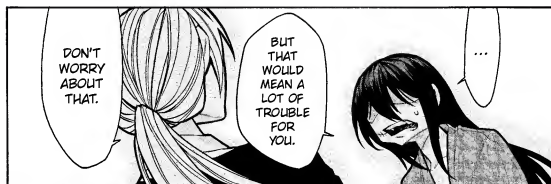
IF
HABUTA-
SAN
HADN'T
RUSHED
TO YOU
IMME-
DIATE-
LY THE
OTHER
DAY,

THAT'S
WHY...

IT WAS
A CLOSE
ONE.

AT SET
TIMES.

I THINK
IT'S BEST
TO MAKE
SURE
WE CAN
EXCHANGE
TWICE A
DAY...



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

BUT
THAT
WOULD
MEAN A
LOT OF
TROUBLE
FOR
YOU.

...



NO
GIKU
...



I WANT
TO SEE
YOU
PERFORM
YOUR
BEST,
TOO.

I WANT
TO RID
YOU OF
YOUR
WORRIES
LEADING
UP TO
THIS
PERFOR-
MANCE.



I DON'T
KNOW IF I
CAN PUT ON
THE BEST
PERFOR-
MANCE...

BUT
...
BEING
LIKE
THIS...

THANK
YOU.

...



I'M JUST
TERRIFIED
TO BE
ALONE.

RIGHT
NOW,

I SAID THIS
ALREADY
YESTERDAY,
BUT...



JUST
LIKE
THAT
SEA
OF
BLOOD.



RED
NAIL
POL-
ISH
...



I FEEL LIKE
I MIGHT SEE
SOMETHING
HORRIBLE...

THAT'S
WHY
YOU
LIVING
TOGETH-
ER
WITH
ME...

WOULD
BE A
REAL
HELP
TO ME.



O-
OH
...



SMACK

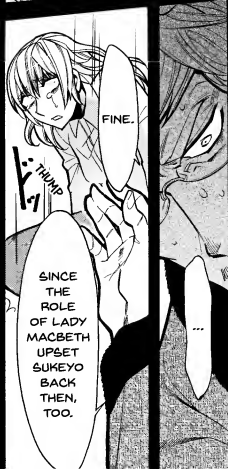
EEK...

GOOD-
FOR-
NOTHING!

THAT
RE-
MINDS
ME...

FATHER
...

MAC-
BETH...



FLINCH



"SUKE-YO..."



BUT
EVEN
THEN,
SHE...
NO, WE
MADE
THE
SHOW A
SUCCESS.
WHEN
SHE
WAS
TROUBLED,
I TOLD
HER
THIS...



IF...

KASANE IS
TROUBLED
BY THE
SAME
THING
THAT
BOTHERED
IZANA
THEN...

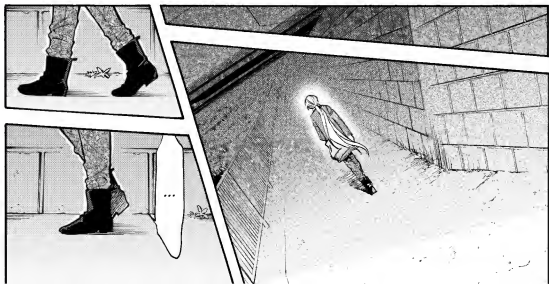
KA-
SANE
...



"THERE'S
NOTHING
TO BE
AFRAID
OF...
BE-
SIDES
..."





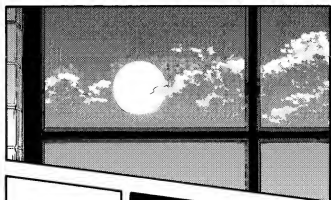








FOR
THE
SAKE
OF
MY
LIGHT,
MY
LIFE...





EVEN
IF...



I'M
SURE
I CAN
OVER-
COME
THIS...

AS LONG
AS I HAVE
NOGIKU.

MY
OWN
SINS
TRY TO
STAND
IN MY
WAY...



Chapter Sixty-Six:
the end

KASANE



THERE IT
IS AGAIN,
AFTER SO
LONG...

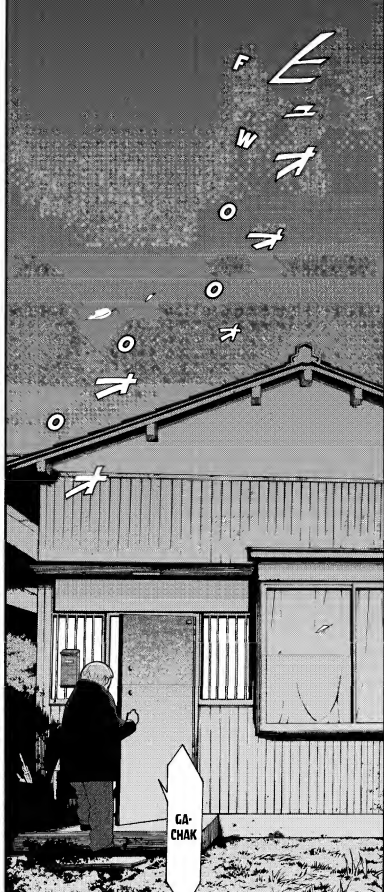


I'll draw it again
when I get the
inspiration.



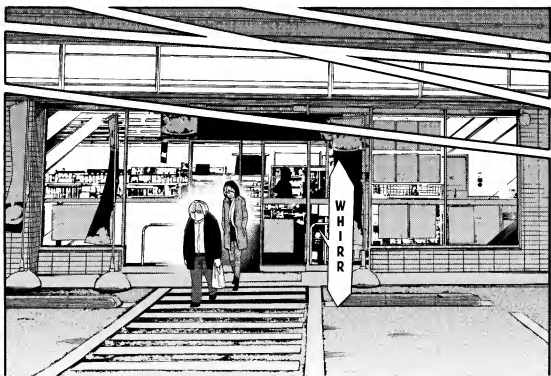
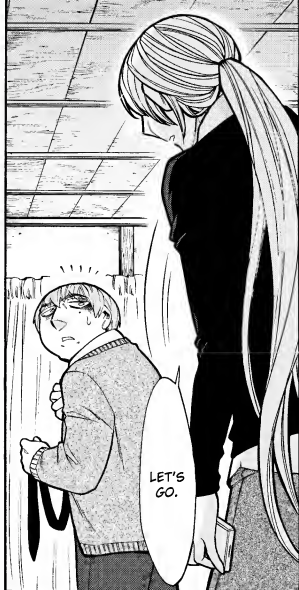
THIS IS UNUSUAL.

YOU'VE COME HOME EARLIER THAN ME.



GA-CHAK





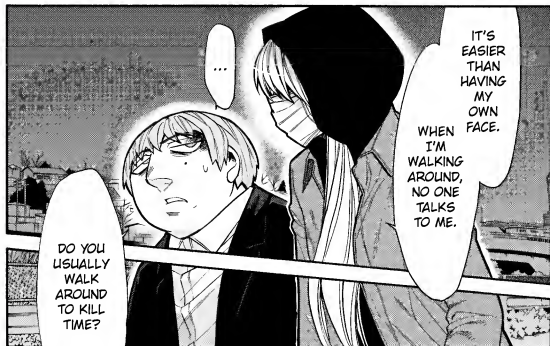


YOU
HAVE TO
WEAR
THAT
UGLY
FACE.

WHAT?

AT
NIGHT,
YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE
TO HIDE
YOUR
FACE, AND
DURING
THE DAY...

...IT
MUST BE
ROUGH.



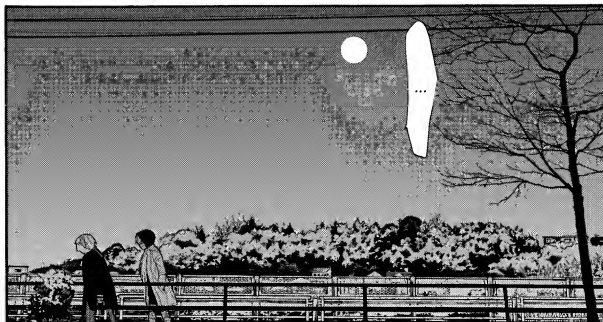
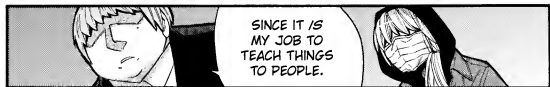
DO YOU
USUALLY
WALK
AROUND
TO KILL
TIME?

...

IT'S
EASIER
THAN
HAVING
MY OWN
FACE.

WHEN
I'M
WALKING
AROUND,
NO ONE
TALKS
TO ME.











COME
MORNING,
I'LL
LEAVE
...

AND
GO TO
KASANE'S
APART-
MENT.

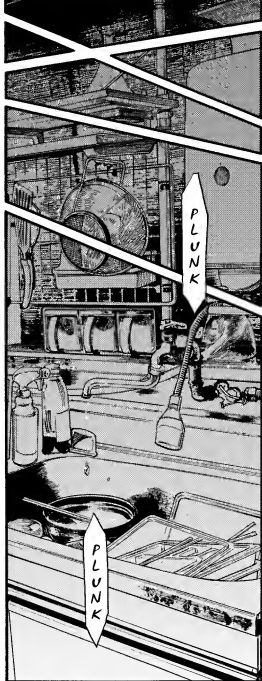
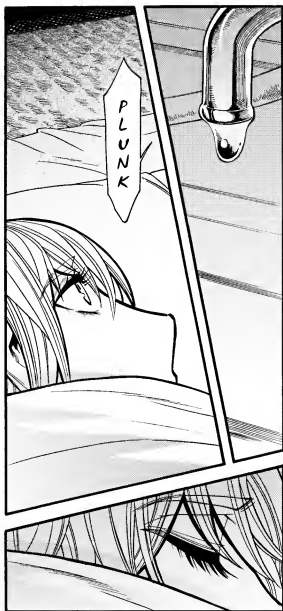


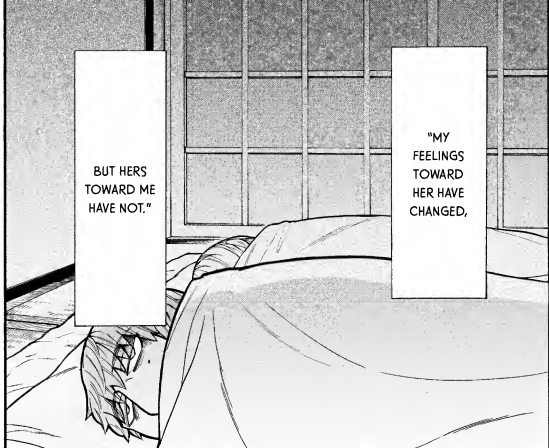
...I
SEE
...

I
DON'T
NEED
YOU
ANY-
MORE.



MY
REVENGE
IS AT
THE
STAGE
WHERE
I CAN
FINISH
THINGS
ON MY
OWN.



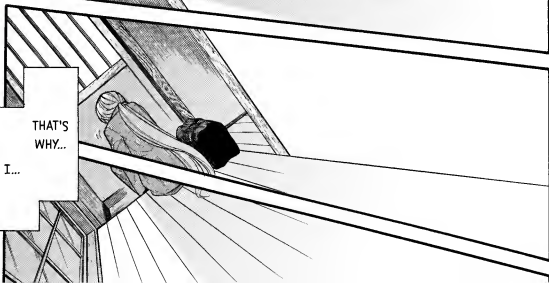


BUT HERS
TOWARD ME
HAVE NOT."

"MY
FEELINGS
TOWARD
HER HAVE
CHANGED,

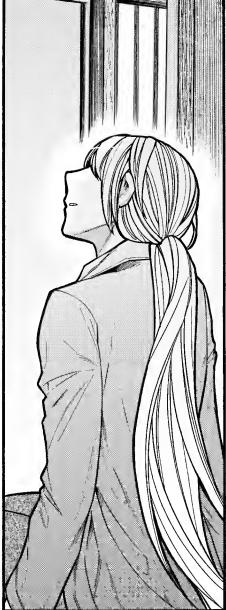
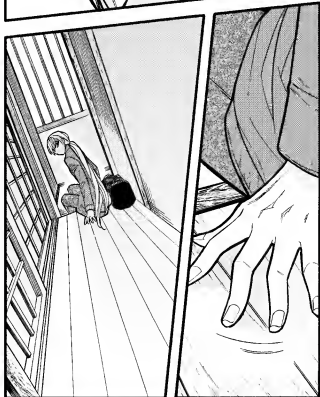


AT THIS
TIME, THAT
ANSWER
SATISFIED
ME.



THAT'S
WHY...

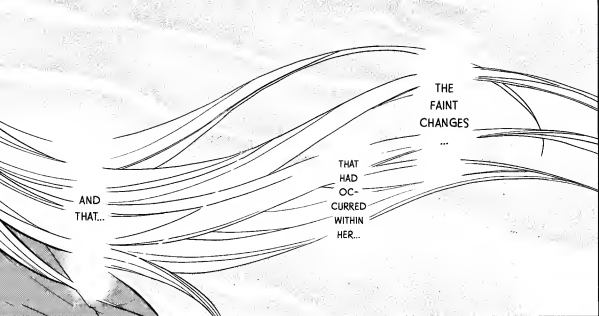
I...



...FAILED
TO
NOTICE
...

GA-
CHAK

TAP



AND
THAT...

THE
FAINT
CHANGES

...

THAT
HAD
OC-
CURRED
WITHIN
HER...



SHE'D
GOTTEN
BETTER AT
LYING.



IT
WASN'T
LONG
BEFORE
I CAME
TO...

REGRET

...



T
H
U
M
P



FAILING
TO STOP
HER.





"OUT,

DAMNED
SPOT!

OUT,
I
SAY!"

SCRUB

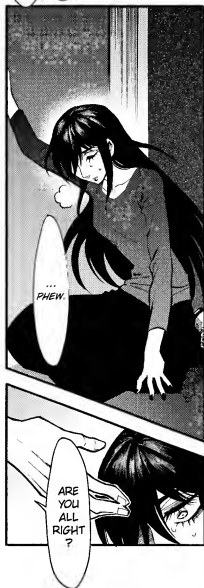
SCRUB

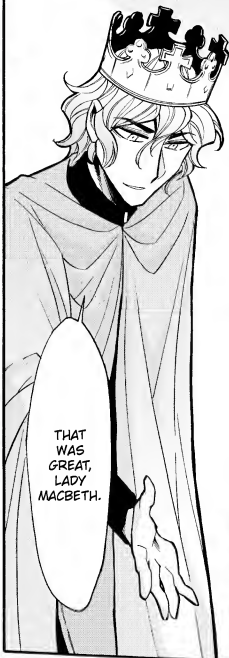
BEAUTIFULLY
DONE.
SO BEAUTI-
FULLY ...

I
ALMOST
CAN'T
STAND
TO
LOOK
AT IT.

I'M IM-
PRESSED
...







LINO-
SAN
...

THAT
WAS
GREAT,
LADY
MACBETH.



THANK
YOU,
NEENA.



NOTHING...



WHAT'S
WRONG
?



I WAS
ABLE TO
UNDER-
STAND
LADY
MACBETH'S
HEART.

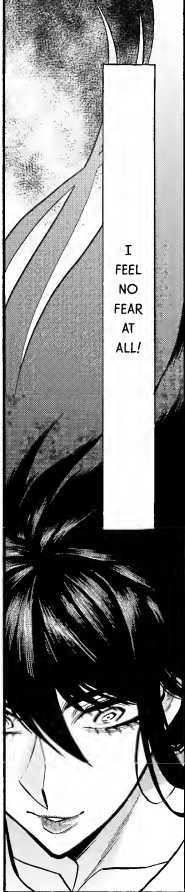
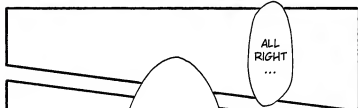
THANKS
TO YOU
BOTH,



BUT
NOW
...

EVEN
LOOKING
BACK ON
MY SINS
AGAINST
BOTH OF
YOU...

THANK
YOU.



Chapter Sixty-Seven:
the end

Chapter Sixty-Eight: Sleep





YOU
MUST
HAVE A
HARD
TIME
SLEEPING
IN A NEW
ENVIRON-
MENT,
HUH?

I JUST
ENDED
UP BEING
AWAKE.



OH...

BUT I
THINK
I'LL GET
USED
TO IT
SOON.

...
I'M
SURE.



THINKING
ABOUT
IT...



"I COULDN'T
SEE YOU
AS A THING
ANYMORE."

THE
SHORT
SPAN
OF
TIME
...

BE-
TWEEN
THAT
NIGHT
UNTIL
THE
TIME I
LEFT...

WAS THE
ONLY TIME
I COULD
REALLY
SLEEP WELL.



AMA-
GA-
SAKI-
SAN
...

AT FIRST, I
THOUGHT
I'D HAVE YOU
CONTINUE TO
HELP ME...

RIGHT UP
UNTIL MY
PLANS WERE
COMPLETE.

BUT
NOW...



BE-
TWEEN
ME
AND
KA-
SANE.

DESIRE
AND
RESENT-
MENT...

INTO
THIS
CIRCLE
OF...

SO I
DON'T
WANT
TO
DRAG
YOU
ANY
DEEPER

...



I...

CAN'T
SEE YOU
AS A TOOL
FOR MY
OWN USE
ANYMORE,
EITHER.



EVEN
IF THAT
MEANS

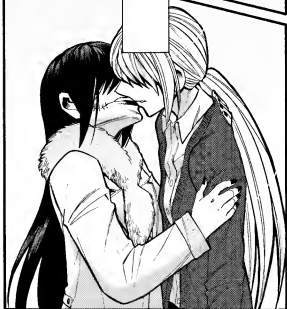
...



I
WILL.

THANK
YOU.

I'VE
LOST
THAT
REST-
FUL
SLEEP
FOR-
EVER.







NOTHING.

HMM?

WHAT?

HOW HAS
NOGIKU
BEEN?

NOGIKU
ISN'T A
STRANGER
ANYMORE!

EVEN
IF
SHE
IS ON
YOUR
SIDE,

THERE'S A
STRANGER
LIVING
UNDER
YOUR
ROOF.

YOU
NEED
TO BE
MORE
CAUTIOUS.

YOU'RE
THINKING
ABOUT
THIS TOO
MUCH.

BESIDES
...

SHE'S
VERY
DEDICAT-
ED.

SHE
DOESN'T
JUST
EXCHANGE
FACES
WITH
ME. SHE'S
ATTENTIVE
TO CHORES
AND THINGS,
AND OFTEN
HELPS ME
OUT.





AND IT'S
BECAUSE
OF WHAT
SHE SAID
THAT I
WAS ABLE
TO GET
BACK ON
MY FEET.



WHAT
SHE
SAID?



THIS
TIME,
OUR
MUTUAL
INTER-
ESTS
...

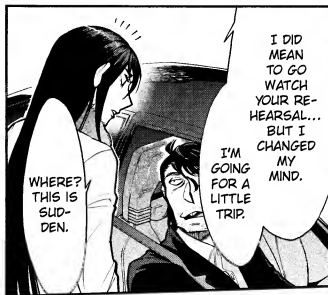
WON'T
FALL
APART,
LIKE
THEY
DID WITH
NEENA!



AND I'LL
WALK
WITH YOU,
TOGETHER,
INTO
HELL."

BUT
I KNOW
YOU CAN
KEEP
PUSHING
FOR-
WARD.

"YOU
CAN'T
MAKE THE
PAST
OR YOUR
SINS GO
AWAY,





WE
DON'T
HAVE
THE TIME,
THOUGH.

I
WANT
IT TO
LOOK
MORE
UNSET-
TLING...
HEAVIER.

THE
PLAN IS
WEAVE
THE ENDS
OF THE
BRANCHES
TO FINISH
IT OFF.

YOU
CAN'T
MAKE
THE TREE
SECTION
OF THE
SET FEEL
DIFFERENT,
SOME-
HOW?



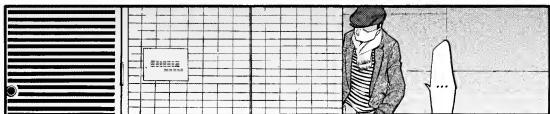
LISTENING
TO THEM
GETS ME
EXCITED,
THOUGH,
WONDER-
ING HOW
IT'LL BE
WHEN IT'S
DONE!

IT LOOKS
LIKE THE
SET DESIGN
MEETING
WILL GO
ON FOR A
WHILE.



GOOD
NIGHT!

NIGHT!









WHAT?

YOU'RE
GONNA
TRY TO
PLAY
DUMB,
WITH
ME?



SO
BY THE
WAY,
HOW
ABOUT
TONIGHT
?



T-TO-
NIGHT
?



NOW
THAT
YOU'RE A
POPULAR
ACTRESS
...

IF
YOU
NEED
IT, I'LL
PAY
EVEN
MORE
THAN
BEFORE
...

TO
KEEP
THINGS
QUIET.



I GET
THAT YOU
WANT
TO HIDE
YOUR
HISTORY.

BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
I COULD
FORGET
YOUR
PHENOMENAL
LOOKS
AND
SWEET
VOICE.



HE
THINKS
I'M...

NOGIKU.

IT
WAS
ALL I
COULD
MANAGE
TO
SHAKE
HIM
OFF,

SO HE
STILL
SUS-
PECTS
ME.



BUT I NEVER
EXPECTED IT TO
HAPPEN AT A TIME
LIKE THIS!



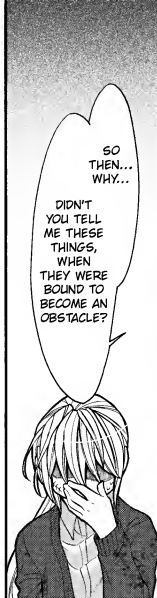
YOUJI
SAGI-
NUMA...
IT'S NOT
LIKE I NEVER
IMAGINED THIS,

BUT
NOW THAT
IT'S COME
TO THIS, I
HAVE TO
ASK.



I
NEVER
PRIED
INTO
YOUR
HISTORY
OR
BACK-
GROUND
...
BECAUSE
YOU
DIDN'T
WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT
IT...





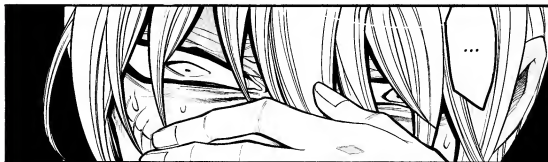
SO
THEN...
WHY...

DIDN'T
YOU TELL
ME THESE
THINGS,
WHEN
THEY WERE
BOUND TO
BECOME AN
OBSTACLE?



AND
THAT
YOU
WANT
TO
CLEAR
MY
CON-
CERNS.

YOU
SAID
YOU'D
WALK
THROUGH
HELL
TOGETHER
WITH
ME...



THIS IS A
PREDIC-
AMENT.



THIS
IS MY
CHANCE
TO WIN.

*SOB
SOB
...*

*SOB
...*

NO...



AND
HABUTA
...

FROM
MY
TRUE
INTEN-
TIONS.

*I
WANTED
TO BE
SOMEONE
ELSE...*

*HAVE
ANOTHER
NAME,
HAVE
ANOTHER
LIFE!*

I CAN USE
THIS TO
DISTRACT
BOTH
KASANE...

THIS
JOB
HAS
BEEN
MY ONLY
OPTION
FOR SURVIV-
AL,

BUT I
DIDN'T
WANT
YOU TO
KNOW.

THAT'S
WHY...



Chapter Sixty-Eight:
the end

Chapter Sixty-Nine: Torch

I...
DON'T
HAVE
ANY-
THING.

NO
FAMILY,

NO
FRIENDS,

NO
HOME
TO GO
BACK
TO,

AND NO
TALENT,
LIKE
YOU.





I HAD
NO WAY
TO
SURVIVE
...
BUT
TO SELL
MYSELF.

I DON'T
EVEN
HAVE
ANY
EDUCA-
TION,
OR
ANY
FORM
OF PER-
SONAL
IDENTIFI-
CATION.



I'M
PATHE-
TIC
...



LOOK-
ING
AT
THIS
FACE,

NO
MATTER
WHAT YOU
MIGHT
LACK, NO
MATTER
HOW YOU
MIGHT
LIVE,

YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL!
NOBODY
WOULD
THINK OF
YOU AS
PATHETIC!



YOU'RE
NOT
PATHETIC!



THEY
AP-
PRAISE
MY
LOOKS,

AND
CONSUME
MY BODY.
IT'S
NOTHING
BUT
PAIN.

AS
IS THE
IRONIC
FACT
THAT IT'S
THANKS
TO THAT
"BEAUTY"
...

THAT
I'VE BEEN
ABLE TO
SURVIVE
AT ALL.



SO
...

I
NEVER
WANTED
YOU, OR
ANYONE
...



EVERY-
THING
I'M
SAYING
NOW IS
MOST
CERTAINLY
HOW I
REALLY
FEEL.



"BEAU-
TIFUL"
?

THE MEN
WHO HAVE
SAID THAT
HAVE ALL
LOOKED
DOWN ON
ME AND
TREATED
ME LIKE AN
OBJECT.



IS
THAT
...

THE
REASON
YOU'RE
CO-
OPER-
ATING
WITH
ME?

IN
ORDER
TO
FOOL
THESE
LIARS...



YES.

IT'S
BEST
IF I
DON'T
LIE
MUCH.



...



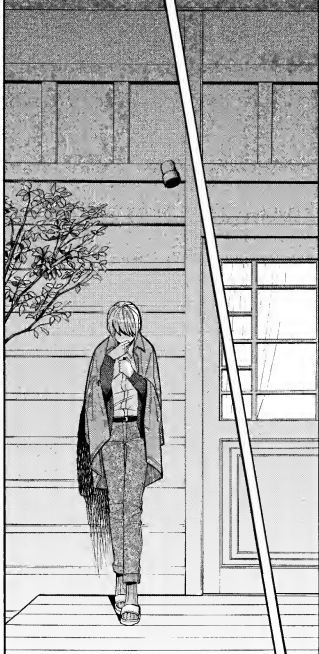
TO
FIND
OUT
ABOUT
HOW
DIRTY
I AM.

I WANTED
TO CARVE
A LIFE FOR
MYSELF
AS A
DIFFERENT
PERSON!

I'M A
SHODDY
ACTOR.











FOR EIGH-TEEN YEARS, HE NEVER LET ME LEAVE THAT MANSION, RAISING ME AS HIS CAPTIVE.

NOT AS HIS DAUGHTER, BUT AS A TARGET FOR HIS LUST.



THE FIRST MAN TO HAVE ME WAS MY FATHER.



I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE, BUT...

FROM THE WAY YOU ACTED WHEN YOU LIT THE MANSION ON FIRE,

CAPTIVE FOR EIGHTEEN YEARS...



SO
THAT'S
WHY YOU
KILLED
HIM?



YES.



BUT
DO YOU
THINK I
COULD
TELL
HER ALL
THAT?

IF I
HADN'T,
I NEVER
WOULD
HAVE
BEEN
ABLE TO
ESCAPE
THAT
HELL...

OR MEET
MY ONLY
SISTER.

NOT
ONLY
HAVE
I
KILLED
OUR
FA-
THER,
I
LIVE
THE
LIFE
THAT
I DO.
I
DON'T
WANT
MY
SISTER

...
TO
KNOW
ABOUT
ALL
THAT.

I DON'T
NEED
TO
REVEAL
OUR
CONNECTION.

DO
SOME-
THING
FOR
HER.

RIGHT
NOW, IT'S
ENOUGH
FOR ME TO
JUST...



LIP
TILL
NOW,
YOUR
GOALS
HAVE
BEEN
TOTALLY
OPAQUE
TO ME...

...

THANKS.

YOUR
WORDS
GOT
HER
BACK
ON HER
FEET,
AND
NOW
SHE'S
CONTINU-
ING TO
PROG-
RESS
SO FAST,
SHE
MIGHT
JUST
BECOME
A
LEGEND.

BE-
SIDES,

BUT
FINALLY,
IT
MAKES
SENSE.



I'M
LOOK-
ING
FOR-
WARD
TO THIS
...

THE
GLORIOUS
MOMENT
WHEN HER
ACTING
REACHES
ITS
PEAK...

AND SHE
BECOMES
A LEGEND.



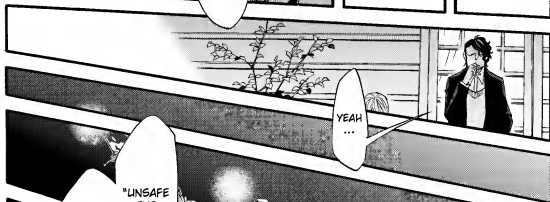
NOW
NEITHER
HABUTA
NOR
KASANE...

WILL
SUSPECT
ME ANY
LONGER.



I
SEE
...

THAT'S
GOOD.



YEAH
...



"UNSAFE
THE
WHILE,
THAT WE
MUST
LAVE OUR
HONOURS
IN THESE
FLATTERING
STREAMS
..."

"AND
MAKE
OUR
FACES
VIZARDS
TO OUR
HEARTS,
DISGUIS-
ING
WHAT
THEY
ARE"
...

CLAP

MAC-
BETH!

WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU WERE
DOING
BETTER
WHEN YOU
FIRST
STARTED.

IT'S
GETTING
WORSE
BY THE
DAY.

...LINO-
SAN?

ARE
YOU
DIS-
TRACT-
ED?

SOME-
TIMES,

IT'S
LIKE
YOU'RE
LOOKING
INTO
LADY
MAC-
BETH'S
EYES,

BUT
NOT
REALLY
LOOKING
AT
HER.



YEAH.

HARD
AT
WORK,
HUH,
LINO?



...



ARE YOU
THINKING
ABOUT
ANOTHER
WOMAN?



...











I
DON'T
KNOW
...

WHAT
YOUR
RELATION-
SHIP WITH
NEENA
TANZAWA
WAS,

BUT
ON STAGE
RIGHT
NOW, I
AM YOUR
WIFE.



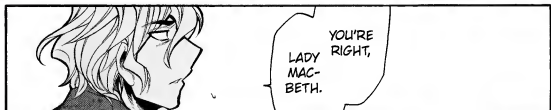
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.
MY
HEAD
IS JUST
MESSED
UP.

PLEASE,
PULL
YOURSELF
TOGETHER.



YOU'RE
BOUND
TO
BECOME
A THREAT
TO ME.
BUT
EVEN
SO...

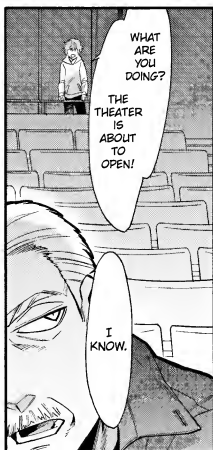
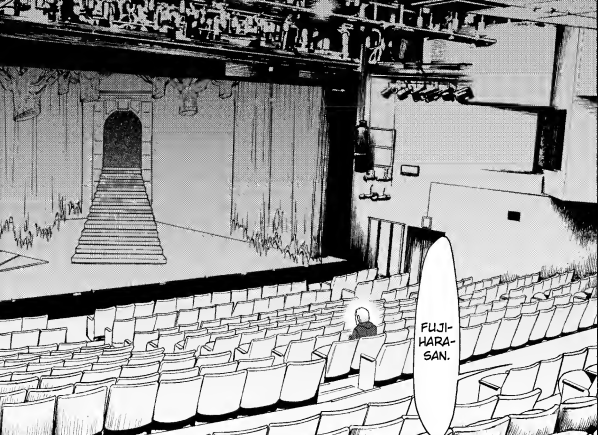
LOOK
ONLY
AT ME.



KASANE

THE RED STUFF
ON THE COVER IS
KETCHUP!









"WHAT
HANDS
ARE
HERE?"

HA!"



"NO,
THIS
MY
HAND
WILL
RATHER
...

THE
MULTITU-
DINOUS
SEAS IN
INCARN-
DINE,"

WASH
THIS
BLOOD
CLEAN
FROM MY
HAND?

NO...

"WILL ALL
GREAT
NEPTUNE'S
OCEAN...



"MAKING THE GREEN
ONE RED."





"RE-
TIRE
WE TO
OUR
CHAM-
BER."

"OH!

I
HEAR A
KNOCK-
ING...

AT THE
SOUTH
ENTRY."

AGAINST
THE
ALMOST
ENTIRELY
COLOR-
LESS
BACK-
DROP,

LADY
MACBETH'S
EXPRESSIONS
ALONE SEEM
SENSUAL
AND VIVID.

A VERY
THOROUGH
KNOWLEDGE
OF HOW
BEST TO USE
EACH AND
EVERY ACTOR.

FUJIHARA
REALLY
DOES
HAVE...

THE
AESTHETIC
SHINES ONLY
BECAUSE OF
THE PAIR'S
ACTING.



HAVE A
GOOD
GRASP OF
WHAT
FUJIHARA
WANTS
THEM TO
EXPRESS.

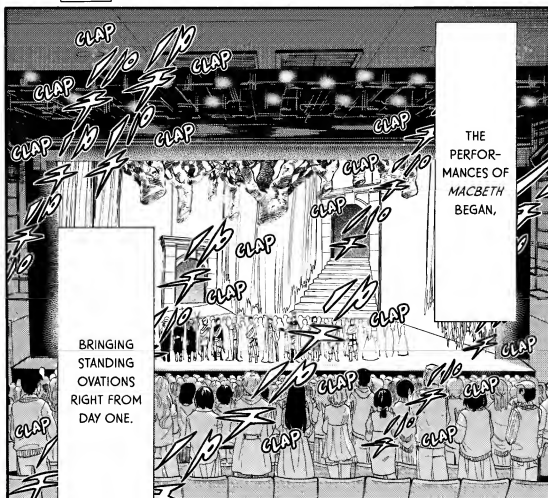
AND
ALL
OF THE
ACTORS
...



AND
SO...

YOU'RE
NEVER GONNA
GO INTO DECLINE,
ARE YOU, YOU
OLD FART?

THAT'S
ANOTHER
OF HIS
TALENTS.



BRINGING
STANDING
OVATIONS
RIGHT FROM
DAY ONE.

THE
PERFOR-
MANCES OF
MACBETH
BEGAN,



EXPECTATIONS
WERE
HIGH,

BUT IT
LOOKS
LIKE IT'S
BEEN
VERY
WELL-
RE-
CEIVED,
TOO.



SO
ABOUT
THE
PERFOR-
MANCE
YESTER-
DAY...



I HEAR
THEY'RE
SUDDENLY
ADDING
MORE
SEATS TO
KEEP UP.



THERE
WEREN'T
MANY
TICKETS
LEFT FOR
SALE TO
BEGIN WITH,
AND NOW
THEY'RE
ALL SOLD
OUT.



A LOT OF
EYES IN THE
THEATER
WORLD ARE
WATCHING,
TOO.

...



I HEAR
THAT
YESTERDAY,
A NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
FROM THE
THEATER
AND FILM
INDUSTRIES
CAME TO
SEE.

FUJI-
HARA-
SAN
DOESN'T
DO PUBLIC
DRESS
REHEARS-
ALS FOR
INDUSTRY
PEOPLE,

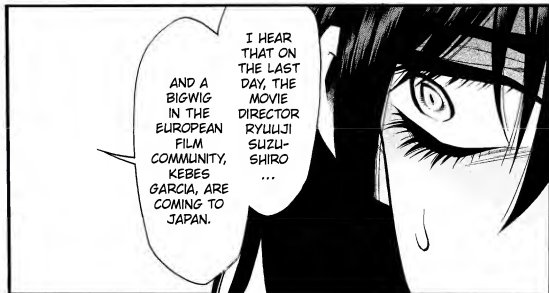
SO I
DIDN'T
KNOW,
BUT...



NO.

?

HAVE YOU
HEARD
ABOUT THE
UPCOMING
GUESTS?



AND A
BIGWIG
IN THE
EUROPEAN
FILM
COMMUNITY,
KEBES
GARCIA, ARE
COMING TO
JAPAN.

I HEAR
THAT ON
THE LAST
DAY, THE
MOVIE
DIRECTOR
RYUJI
SUZU-
SHIRO
...

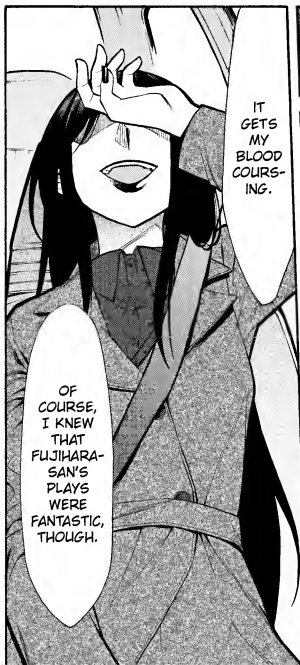




ARE
GOING TO
BE POINTED
AT YOU NOW,
AND MORE
THAN EVER
BEFORE.

BE IT
IN THE
BUSINESS
OR IN
GENERAL,

ALL
EYES
...



IT
GETS
MY
BLOOD
COURS-
ING.

OF
COURSE,
I KNEW
THAT
FUJIHARA-
SAN'S
PLAYS
WERE
FANTASTIC,
THOUGH.



...



GETTING
SCARED?

WHAT'S
WRONG
?



NO.



MAKES
ME
HAPPY.

GETTING THE
CHANCE TO
BE IN SUCH
AN AMAZING
POSITION...



YEAH.

OF COURSE,
THAT'S STILL
NOT ENOUGH
FOR ME.



DON'T BE
PRIDEFUL,
AND GIVE
THIS ALL
YOU'VE
GOT.

YOU
CAN GO
HIGHER.



SO
ABOUT
THAT,
SAKI
...

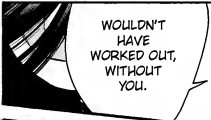


...

OF
COURSE.







WOULDN'T
HAVE
WORKED OUT,
WITHOUT
YOU.



DOING TWO
PERFOR-
MANCES IN
ONE DAY, AT
TWELVE AND
AT SEVEN
...



I CAN
IMMERSE
MYSELF
IN THE
PERFOR-
MANCE
WITHOUT
ANY
WORRIES.



BY
KISS-
ING
HERE,



BEFORE
THE
SECOND
SHOW,



AND SHE
DOESN'T
HIDE
WHERE SHE
KEEPS THE
LIPSTICK.



SHE
TRUSTS
ME,



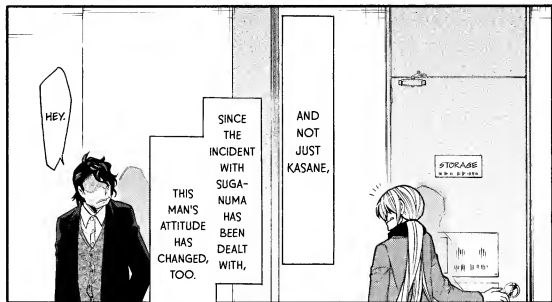
SEEING
YOU
PERFORM
OUT
THERE...

GOOD
LUCK,
TODAY.

IT'S GOOD
THAT SHE
TRUSTS ME
LIKE THAT.



ENCOURAGES
ME, TOO.



HEY.

THIS
MAN'S
ATTITUDE
HAS
CHANGED,
TOO.

SINCE
THE
INCIDENT
WITH
SUGA-
NUMA
HAS
BEEN
DEALT
WITH,

AND
NOT
JUST
KASANE,

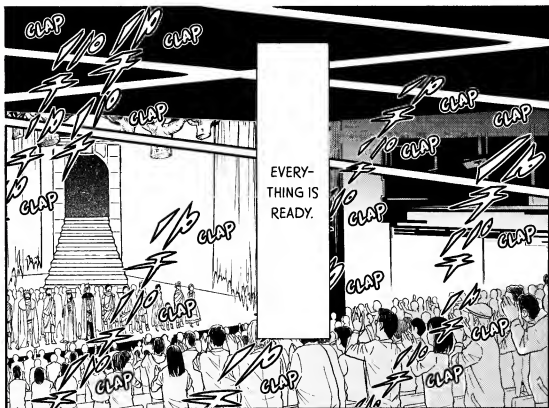
STORAGE
www.pp-000



SORRY
YOU HAVE
TO DO
THIS
ALL THE
TIME.



OH,
IT'S
FINE.



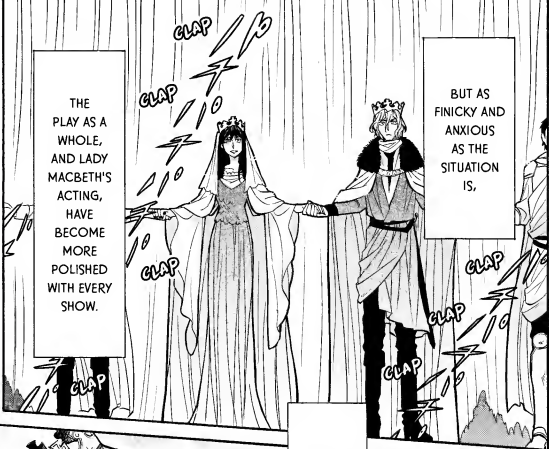
EVERY-
THING IS
READY.



THE
TWELVE
TIMES
SO FAR,
THAT
SPACE
OF TIME
HASN'T
BEEN OFF
BY EVEN A
MOMENT.

THE INTERVAL
BETWEEN
CURTAIN RISE
AND CURTAIN
FALL IS
PRECISE AND
IDENTICAL,
EVERY TIME.

SINCE
YOSHIO
FUJIHARA
DIRECTS
THINGS
DOWN
TO THE
SECOND,



THE
PLAY AS A
WHOLE,
AND LADY
MACBETH'S
ACTING,
HAVE
BECOME
MORE
POLISHED
WITH EVERY
SHOW.

BUT AS
FINICKY AND
ANXIOUS
AS THE
SITUATION
IS,



HABUTA
HAS SAID
THAT ON
THE FINAL
DAY IN
PARTICU-
LAR,

THE
EYES
OF THE
THEATER
WORLD
WILL BE
FOCUSED
ON SAKI.



BUT...

IF...



FIVE MORE DAYS UNTIL THE FINAL SHOW.

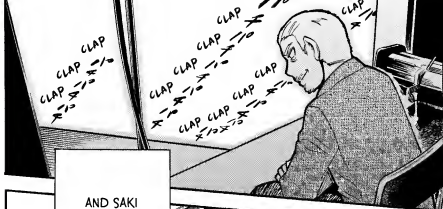
ALL THE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MY PLAN HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

IF THE LIP-STICK WERE TO WEAR OFF ...

IF THE MAGIC ...

WHICH ALLOWS HER TO BE SAKI,

DURING THE CURTAIN CALL, WHEN ALL EYES ARE ON HER,



THE TIME
FROM
CURTAIN
RISE TO
CURTAIL
CALL IS
INCREDIBLY
CONSISTENT,

AND SAKI
NEEDS TO
KISS ME
TWICE IN
ORDER TO
PERFORM
TWICE IN
ONE DAY.

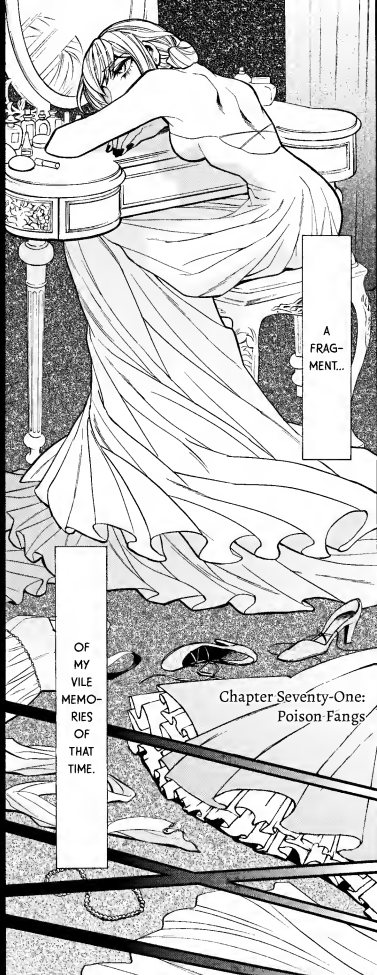


AFTER
THAT
...

MOST
LIKELY,
THIS...

WILL
BECOME
MY
SWORD.

Chapter Seventy:
the end



A
FRAG-
MENT...

OF
MY
VILE
MEMO-
RIES
OF
THAT
TIME.

Chapter Seventy-One:
Poison Fangs



MY
SWORD
...THAT
IS...

ALL
THE
EXACT
SAME
ONES
THAT
SHE
ONCE
WORE.

FORCED
CLOTHES.

ACCES-
SORIES,
AND
MAKE-
UP ON
ME...

IN
THE
PAST,

IN
ORDER
TO
MAKE
ME
HIS
RE-
PLACE-
MENT
FOR
"SUKE-
YO
FUCHI,"
MY
FATHER
...

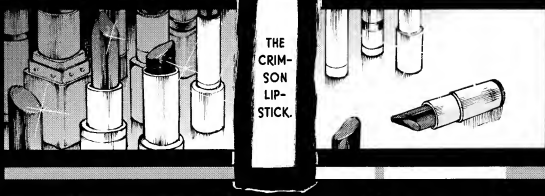
OF ALL
OF THESE,
THE THING
HE WAS
MOST
FIXATED
ON WAS...

SUKE-
YO...



WHO LOOKS MORE PERFECT IN BLOOD-RED LIPSTICK.

THERE IS NO OTHER WOMAN IN THE WORLD...



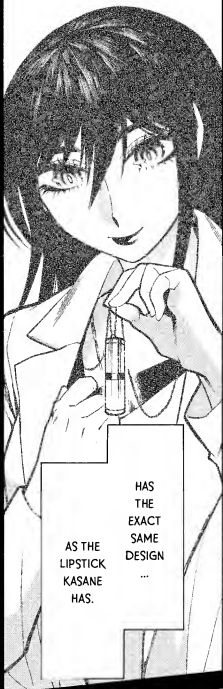
THE CRIMSON LIPSTICK.



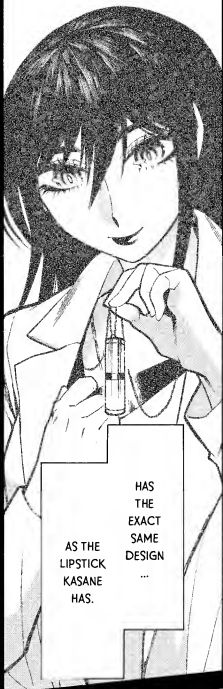
WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE LIPSTICK SHE HAS IS THE SOURCE OF HER TRANSFORMATION POWER...

BUT...

OF COURSE, UNLIKE THE LIPSTICK KASANE CARRIES, THIS ONE HAS NO MAGIC.



I REALIZED
THAT ONE
OF THE
LIPSTICKS
IN THAT
MANSION...

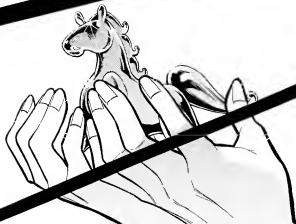


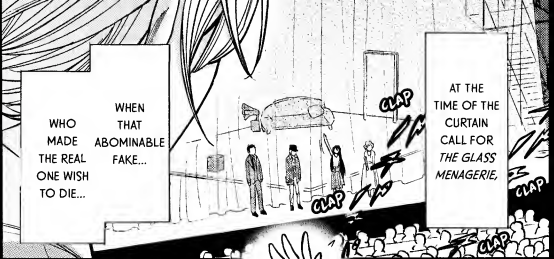
I TOOK IT
FROM THE
DRESSER,
ONLY
THINKING

THAT IT
MIGHT BE A
HINT THAT
COULD
TEACH ME
ABOUT
KASANE'S
LIPSTICK.

HAS
THE
EXACT
SAME
DESIGN
...
AS THE
LIPSTICK
KASANE
HAS.

NOT
LONG
AFTER,





WHO
MADE
THE REAL
ONE WISH
TO DIE...

WHEN
THAT
ABOMINABLE
FAKE...

AT THE
TIME OF THE
CURTAIN
CALL FOR
THE GLASS
MENAGERIE,

WAS
LIT
UNDER
THE
LIGHTS,

AND
I SAW
HER
RE-
CEIVING
THAT
AP-
PLAUSE
...

WHAT IF
THOSE
GAZES
OF
ADMIRATION
SHOW-
ERED
UPON
HER...

I
WON-
DERED
...



WERE TO
TURN TO
STARES OF
CONTEMPT
AND
REJECTION?

MADE ME
REALIZE THE
MISSION I
HAD TO
CARRY OUT.

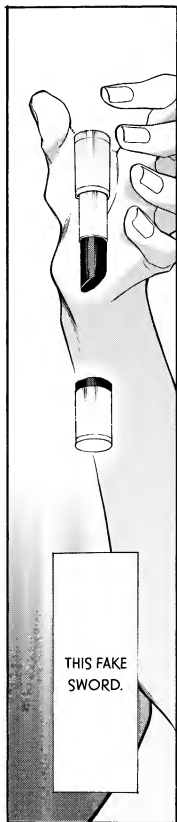
THESE
THOUGHTS...

SINCE
I'VE
KILLED
NEENA,

KASANE
IS BOUND
TO WANT
A NEW
"FACE"
TO USE.

SO THEN
I'LL USE
MYSELF AS
BAIT TO
LURE HER
IN...





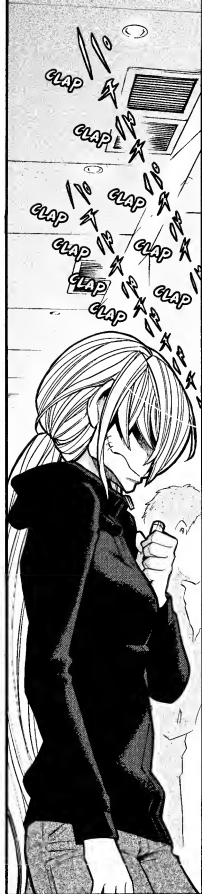
THIS FAKE
SWORD.



USING
...



AND
PLUNGE
HER
DOWN
INTO
THE
ABYSS
...





YOU
MAY HAVE
HEARD
SOME
RUMORS

...
ABOUT
BIG SHOTS
SHOWING
UP.

BUT IF
YOU'RE
GETTING
YOUR-
SELF ALL
WORKED
UP OVER
SOME-
THING
LIKE THAT,

IT JUST
MEANS
YOU'RE
NOT
GETTING
PROPERLY
INTO YOUR
ROLE.



SOON,
THE
AFTER-
NOON
PERFORM-
ANCE
WILL
BEGIN.

BUT
ONCE
THAT'S
OVER,
FINALLY,
THE ONLY
THING LEFT
WILL BE
THE FINAL
EVENING
PERFORM-
ANCE.



TO
PUT ON
A GREAT
PERFORM-
ANCE
FOR THEM!

NO
MATTER
WHO'S
IN THE
AUDI-
ENCE,
JUST
DO
WHAT
YOU
HAVE
TO DO
...





I'LL DO
WHAT I
HAVE
TO DO.

IT'S
JUST
AS
FUJI-
HARA
SAYS.

DON'T
WORRY,
MOM...



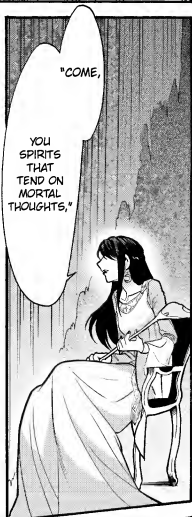
AND...
I WILL
SURPASS
YOU.



I'LL
ENJOY
THE
FUTURE
YOU
NEVER
SAW,
AND
THE
LIGHTS
...

AS I
DESERVE!





"COME,

YOU
SPIRITS
THAT
TEND ON
MORTAL
THOUGHTS,"

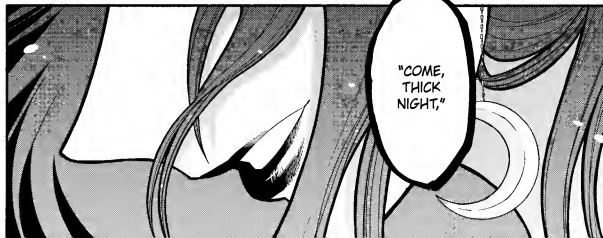
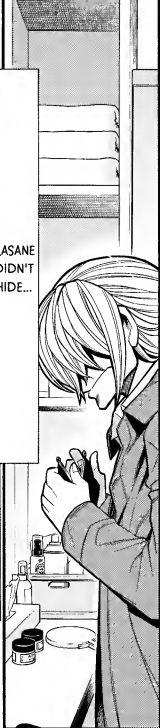
"UNSEX
ME HERE,"





KASANE
DIDN'T
HIDE...

THAT
SHE
PUT
HER
LIP-
STICK
IN
HERE.



"COME,
THICK
NIGHT,"



"AND
PALL
THEE
IN THE
DUNNEST
SMOKE
OF
HELL,

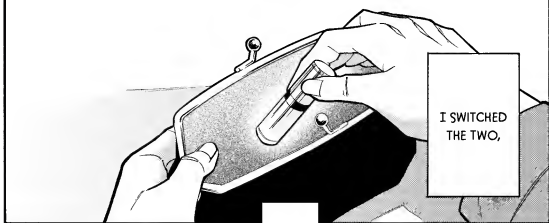
THAT
MY
KEEN
KNIFE
...

SEE
NOT THE
WOUND IT
MAKES."

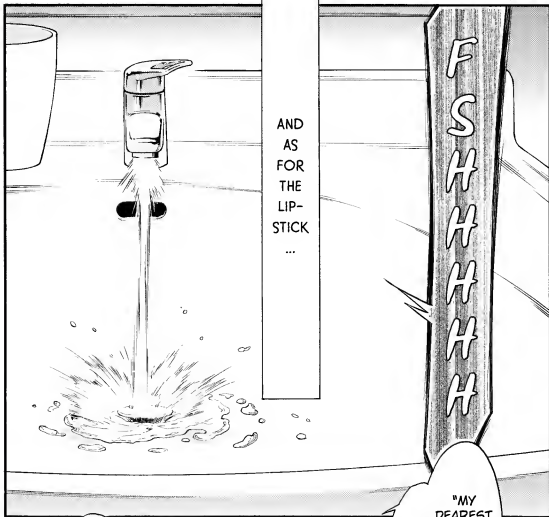


THE
COLOR
OF THE
STICKS
ARE
VERY
CLOSE,
TOO.

THE
CASES
REALLY
ARE
EXACT-
LY THE
SAME.



I SWITCHED
THE TWO,



AND
AS
FOR
THE
LIP-
STICK
...

F
S
H
H
H
H
H
H

"MY
DEAREST
LOVE,

DUNCAN
COMES
HERE
TONIGHT."

"AND
WHEN
GOES
HENCE?"

"NEVER..."

THE
DREAMS
YOU'VE
GRASPED
HOLD OF,

"TO-
MORROW,
AS HE
PURPOS-
ES."

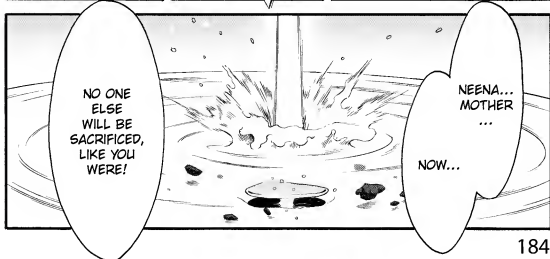
THE
LIGHTS,

"OH?"

YOUR
FUTURE
...

"SHALL
SUN THAT
MORROW
SEE!"

WILL
VANISH.





AND
THEN...

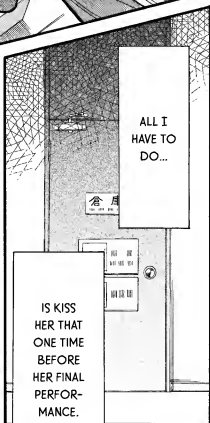


ONCE I'VE
AVENGED
MYSELF...



EVEN IF
WE KISS,
HER
TRANS-
FORMATION
TIME
WON'T BE
EXTEND-
ED!

BUT THE
LIPSTICK
SAKI WILL
HAVE THEN
WILL BE
THE FAKE
ONE.



ALL I
HAVE TO
DO...

IS KISS
HER THAT
ONE TIME
BEFORE
HER FINAL
PERFORM-
ANCE.



HEH
HEH
EH ...
HEH
HEH
...

IN
OTHER
WORDS
...



TWELVE
HOURS
AFTER OUR
EXCHANGE
THIS
MORNING,



I'LL
MAKE
SURE
TO
WATCH
IT
HAPPEN
...



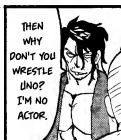
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
CURTAIN
CALL,

"SAKI"
WILL
TRANS-
FORM
INTO
KASANE!

THE
CLIMAX
OF YOUR
FATE.

HABUTA

WRITING/LAYOUT/ART
Saburo Kiriakure



AFTERWORD



for
reading
this
volume!

Now then!
Thank you
very much...

SEE
YOU AGAIN
IN VOLUME
NINE!

Please
don't
put up
those
Bikkuriman*
stickers
all over
the house.

I'm
constantly
relying on
so many
people,
I feel
like I'm
gonna
end up
paying
for it...

STAFF

(HONORIFICS ABRIDGED)

- DOUMU KOBAYASHI
- SABURO KIRIGAKURE
- MASASHI MOTEGI
- SHIGOTO NORA
- SATOKO MATSUMOTO
- YUUTO YOKOYAMA
- SUBARU ENOMOTO
- TATSU MURAKOSHI

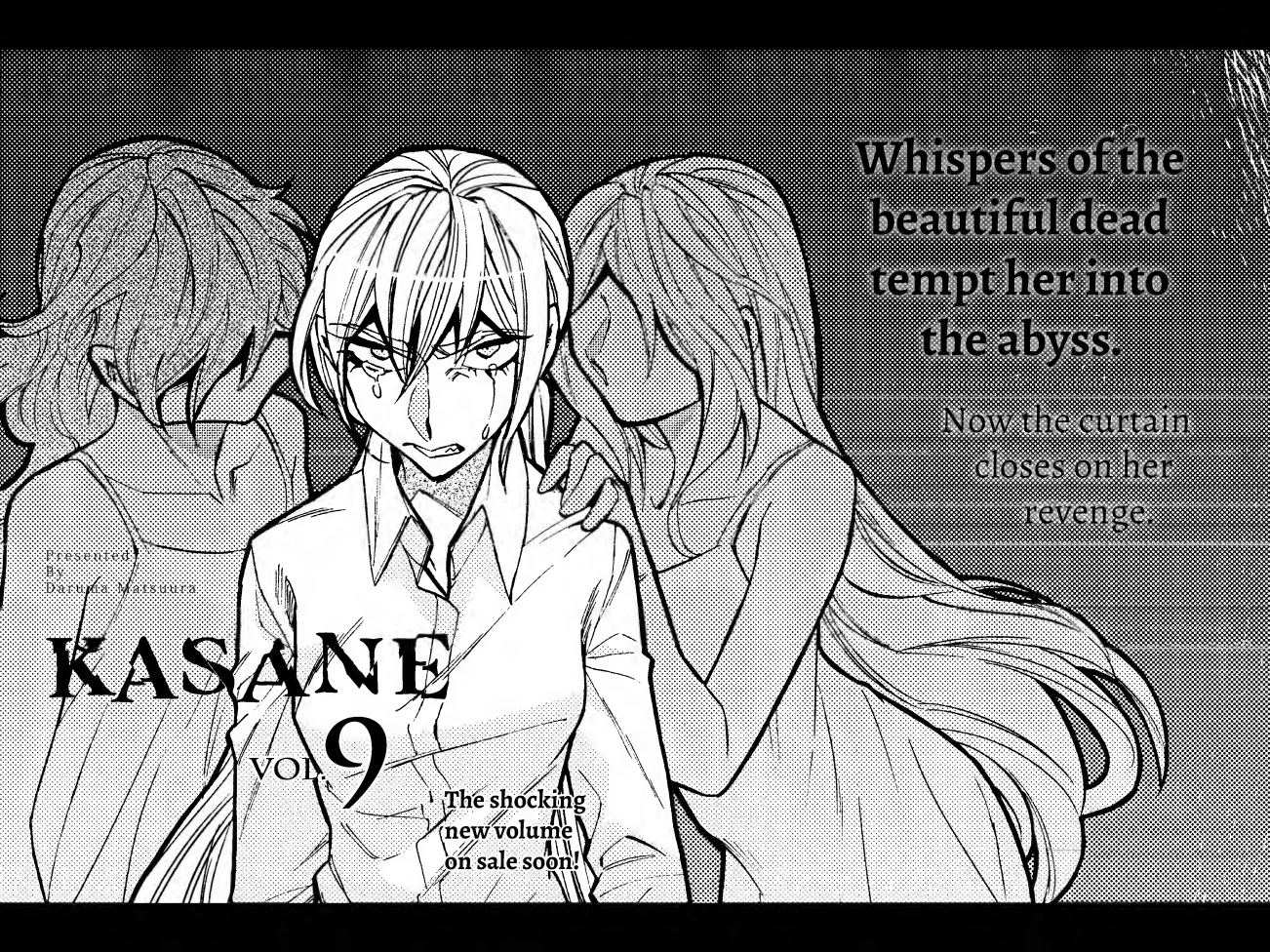
DINOSAUR

WHOOOSH
WHOOOSH

* Bikkuriman are a line of chocolate and water snacks that come with stickers in the packages.

KASANE V. 8: END

Please
pick
up my
novel,
"Izana"
(published
by
Seikaisha
Fictions),
too!



Whispers of the
beautiful dead
tempt her into
the abyss.

Now the curtain
closes on her
revenge.

Presented
By
Daruma Matsuura

KASANE

VOL. 9

The shocking
new volume
on sale soon!

Kasane 8

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